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REMOTE VIEWING: PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL POTENTIAL FOR INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION?

by

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Thesis submitted to the Faculty
of the Defense Intelligence College
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science of Strategic Intelligence

November 1992

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the US Government

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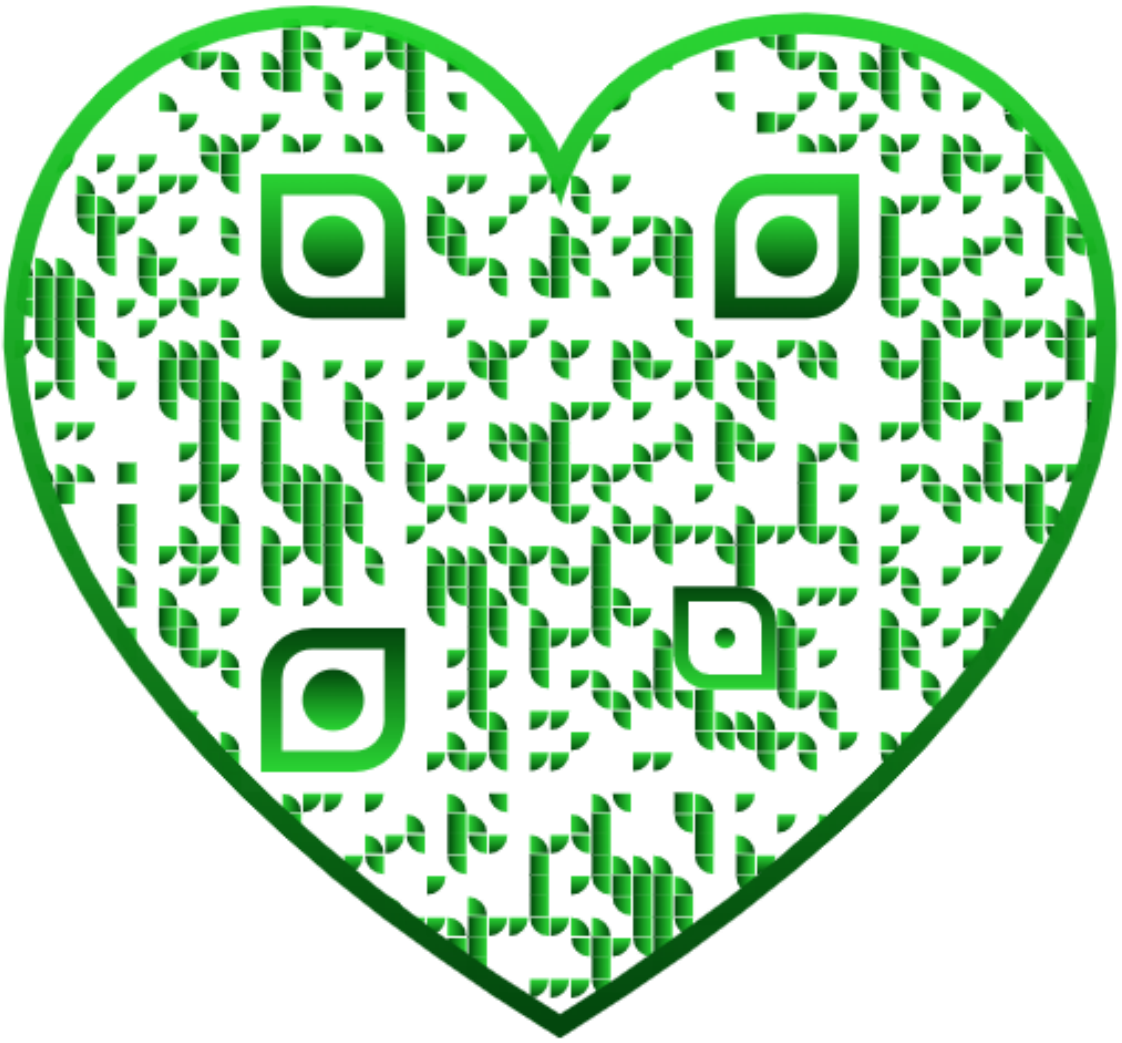

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

LIST OF FIGURES.....vii

Chapter

1. INTRODUCTION.....2

Riddled With Controversy.....5

Early US interest.....6

2. THE SOVIET ADVANTAGE.....15

Marked Differences.....15

Historical Perspective.....19

Mind Over Matter.....27

3. HUBRIS IN THE US GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE?.....32

A Need to Believe?.....33

Stanford Research Institute (SRI) Tests.....36

4. AN INTELLIGENCE TOOL?.....50

Political and Military Applications.....50

5. CONCLUSION.....76

What We Don't Know Could Hurt Us!.....76

Insurmountable Obstacles?.....78

BIBLIOGRAPHY.....88

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		Page
1	Photographs and remote viewer's drawings of targets contained in 35mm film canisters, Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, CA. 21 June 1979	41
2	Photograph and remote viewer's drawing of a Research and Development site in the Soviet Union, Spring 1977	56
3	Remote viewer's drawing of water fountain at Washington Square in New York City, 6 July 1976	62
4	Remote viewer's drawing of an airport in San Andres, Colombia, March 1976	63
5	Remote viewer's drawing of a merry-go-round March 1976	64
6	Remote viewer's drawing of tennis courts March 1976	65
7	Remote viewer's drawing of typewriter target March 1976	66
8	Remote viewer's drawing of video monitor March 1976	69
9	Remote viewer's drawing of xerox machine March 1976	70

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

ABSTRACT

(U) Remote viewing could be a potentially profitable intelligence collection tool if accepted as valid by those who have the power to promote its research. Blindly overlooking the persuasive experimental data that this phenomenon has yielded on numerous occasions could equate, from a counterintelligence perspective, to disregarding a potentially dangerous threat. This study is not designed to persuade the reader that this phenomenon is absolute, but rather to bring to light, that in time, through continued study and application of this phenomenon, it could prove a worthwhile collection tool.

(U) Research in this area is at a standstill in the United States. The general premise, threaded throughout this paper, is that a great majority of professionals from government, military, and academic circles are reluctant to accept this phenomenon, regardless of significant findings. The fear of humiliation for accepting something which so strongly cuts across the lines of conventional wisdom appears to be the overriding reason. This paper illustrates, through informed opinions of prominent government, military, and

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academic officials, the roller coaster of differing attitudes this phenomenon has weathered over time.

(U) While this study addresses the inherent short comings of this phenomenon, it also uncovers a great deal of credible information in the form of experimental test procedures and results, interviews with reputable authorities, and suggestions for employing this phenomenon, which if ever accepted, could contribute to acceptance of remote viewing as an intelligence force multiplier.

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

CHAPTER 1

> You're travelling through another dimension. A dimension, not only of sight and sound, but of mind. A journey into a wonderous land whose boundaries are that of the imagination.
>
> Rod Serling
> "The Twilight Zone"

(U) During the course of researching this topic, chosen prior to the break up of the Soviet Union, much of the information obtained applies to what today exists as the Commonwealth of Independent States. For clarity's sake, readers should know that in those cases where the events addressed occurred prior to August 1991, the terms Soviet Union and Soviet are used to indicate the nation which existed at that time.

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

INTRODUCTION

(U) The field of parapsychology is large, encompassing numerous independent topics, therefore, this thesis will focus on the study of telepathic clairvoyance, recently termed "remote viewing" by Stanford Research Institute (SRI) scientists Harold Puthoff and Russell Targ. Benjamin B. Wolman author of Handbook of Parapsychology defines remote viewing as an experience, either spontaneous or induced, in which one's center of consciousness seems to be in a spatial location separate from that of one's physical body.[1] Other commonly used synonyms include astral projection, and out-of-body-experience. In research conducted under the sponsorship of the former Soviet Union, the Russians, who study this concept seriously, believe that when it is finally developed, remote viewing will allow an operator in one location to gather intelligence information from another area, up to several thousand kilometers away, without ever leaving the security of his initial location. This collection is not conducted with the aid of electronic equipment, but strictly by mental processes.

(U) Research shows that the US does not consider remote viewing a viable threat. More importantly, the US has

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

consistently overlooked remarkable experimental data which illustrates that remote viewing could also prove an invaluable complimentary intelligence collection asset.

(U) Parapsychology is a controversial phenomenon both among the general public and in respected academic circles. The most striking hypothesis threaded throughout my research, is that parapsychological data, no mater how convincing, is frequently dismissed as superstitious hocus pocus and nonsense. This paper will illustrate that the intelligence community, schooled to "think red," should focus on the potential value this phenomenon has demonstrated on numerous occasions.

(U) The biggest obstacle in the path to further research, which has plagued this branch of inquiry since the 1920s, is the intelligence community's reluctance to accept remote viewing. It appears to threaten their conventional beliefs, and many people associated with this controversial issue are labelled charlatans or freaks. I personally encountered this skepticism during my research for this paper. Many of the people I approached with the hope of obtaining leads or information met me with raised eyebrows and disdainful smirks.

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(U) The current umbrella of intelligence disciplines; Signals Intelligence; Imagery Intelligence; newly introduced Measurement and Signature Intelligence; and Human Intelligence are considered sufficient by the intelligence community to adequately meet our intelligence collection needs. However, what if a force multiplier could be added that could substantially enhance this overall collection umbrella? Available evidence is increasingly persuasive that such a multiplier may indeed exist in the form of remote viewing. In addition, if such a multiplier does exist, it stands to reason that steps toward preparing defensive countermeasures would merit the concern of the counterintelligence community. However, interest in demonstrating its potential has seriously subsided in the US since the mid 1970s.

(U) The importance and ramifications of remote viewing to the field of intelligence if used by an opposing force could be monumental. Consider the following scenario: On the modern battlefield the opposition might have the ability to retrieve intricate battle plans from a US tactical operations center far enough in advance to plan a counterattack to squash an upcoming operation. The US force would be placed at a serious disadvantage at best, and utterly defeated in the worst case. To take it a step further, let us suggest that

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the opposition could obtain this information in advance undetected, regardless of stringent security. The final blow: There is apparently no serious effort underway by the US Government to counter this possibility.

RIDDLED WITH CONTROVERSY

(U) The two major subcategories of parapsychology are extrasensory perception (ESP) and psychokinesis (PK).[2] The phenomenon of remote viewing falls within ESP and pertains to the acquisition and description, by mental means, of information blocked from ordinary perception by distance or shielding, and generally considered to be secure.[3]

(U) According to Robert A. Monroe, author of the landmark book Journeys Out of the Body, which he based on several years of personal out-of-body experiences, remote viewing includes events in which the experiencer (1) seems to perceive some portion of some environment which could not possibly be perceived from where his physical body is known to be at the time; and (2) knows at the time that he is not dreaming or fantasizing because the person experiencing this event maintains normal consciousness.[4]

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(U) Ray Hyman, professor of psychology at the University of Oregon and author of Psychological Inquiry, defines remote viewing as an incident when a subject is able to describe a target site even though he has no sensory basis for doing so. This can be achieved by giving the subject the longitude and latitude of any place on the globe, or by sending a team of observers, who act as a conduit for the remote viewer, to a randomly selected site that is unknown to the subject.[5]

EARLY US INTEREST

(S/NF) US national security agencies have been interested in remote viewing since at least World War II when Hitler reportedly relied on astrologers and seers for intelligence information. Approximately 50 years later the government still cannot disprove that psychic phenomena is something to be taken seriously. The FY 1992 Defense Authorization Act tasked the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to initiate an aggressive study on anomalous phenomena. The FY 1992 Act directs "a continued robust effort to evaluate the activities of foreign governments, particularly the activities of the Soviet Union."[6]

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(U) According to William J. Broad, a New York Times reporter, US concern over Russian interest in paranormal phenomena was nothing new. His article, "The Pentagon is Said to Focus on ESP for Wartime," claimed that in 1977 President Carter ordered the Central Intelligence Agency to "conduct a high-level review of psychic research behind the Iron Curtain in an attempt to assess a possible Soviet threat."[7]

(U) However, Admiral Stansfield Turner, CIA director appointed by President Carter, was a self-confessed skeptic of parapsychology and Carter's tasking was never taken seriously. Turner once remarked, "twenty years from now, I may wonder how I could be so dumb as to question the evidence for psychic phenomena, but then again, I may feel the same way I do now."[8]

(S/NF) Ronald McRea, in his article "Psychic Warfare,"

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which appeared in the October 1981 issue of The Investigator, claimed that the US Navy, as early as 1952, was the first armed service to look into employing psychics, in an attempt to enhance its efforts to locate Soviet submarines.[9] Also in 1952 the Department of Defense received information on the possible usefulness of ESP in psychological warfare.[10] In 1961, because of mounting interest in paranormal phenomena, the CIA's Office of Technical Service commissioned the Director of the Parapsychological Laboratory at Oxford University in London to review the validity of ESP. The project, codenamed ULTRA, claimed that ESP was demonstrated but not understood or controllable. The report was read with interest at the CIA but produced no further action.[11] This inaction by the US military reflected their reluctance to accept something of this magnitude which so strongly ran counter to their innate conservatism.

(U) Nevertheless, in time, Congress and the military, namely Military Intelligence, demonstrated increased concern over the concept of remote viewing and psychic warfare during the early 1970s. This concern focused on the fear that the US was losing the "race of psychic supremacy" to the Soviets. Moreover, it was also during this time that the US news media and noteworthy scientific journals such as Nature, Science,

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and Proceedings of the IEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) started to seriously address psychic issues.[12] In addition, conferences organized by reputable scientific bodies, and attended by high-ranking military and government officials, started to reexamine the laissez-faire attitude of the US toward psychic phenomena.

(U) It was also during the 1970s that Stanford Research Institute scientists Harold Puthoff and Russell Targ convinced some within the intelligence community, through numerous controlled experiments, that remote viewing should not be overlooked as a collection tool:

> (U) In these experiments, a psychologist would sit with a "psychic" subject in a laboratory, while another scientist would stand at an unknown site, sometimes several kilometers away. The subject would attempt to describe the site, of which he had no prior knowledge. In many cases the scientists said, these descriptions -- of objects as large as clock towers and as small as pins -- were remarkably accurate, the evident result of some telepathic mental process not yet understood.[13]

(U) However, since the 1970s, when support for remote viewing reached its apex, its more recent examination has been marked by a roller coaster of attitudes, from overwhelming ridicule to reluctant attempts at understanding it. Some have even tried to exercise the sketchy knowledge uncovered.

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(U) Dr. Edgar M. Johnson, Technical Director and Chief Psychologist for the US Army, claims that the overriding reason why research for parapsychology is at a standstill is that there is no theoretical basis put forward on why we would expect to find the existence of paranormal phenomena. This, he claims, is a more damning fault than not having the data. According to Dr. Johnson:

> (U) After 30 or 40 years of sustained support in this area there still is not very convincing data. You can only pursue a dream so long. In many cases phenomena have explanations based on known physical principles, so one tendency is, if we see something unusual, we conclude that it must have an unusual explanation. The problem with parapsychology is that it has no explanation, unusual or otherwise.[14]

SG1J (U) [redacted] Chief of Special Projects for the Defense Intelligence Agency, holds a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, and a master's degree in physics. He has spent fifteen years following the progression of world-wide parapsychological research. He has also been actively involved, in what he refers to as "hands-on experimentation" in the US. In fact, he is the person most referred to, by many of the people consulted for information on this topic, as the intelligence community's premier source on paranormal phenomena. He counters Dr. Johnson's opinion on this issue:

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> (U) Because of my background, I look at things from a scientific perspective, fully realizing that not all science can be explained in advance by theory. Some science has got to be evolved and determined through the empirical, or the 'getting-the-hands-dirty approach.' Over my fifteen years of study in this area I have noted strong correlations, too striking, and well beyond chance, even when you rule in coincidences and other types of factors. This phenomenon is not totally predictable, but then again, what is totally predictable in the human side of things, particularly when you are looking at psychological factors? Therefore, why should we expect an area like this to yield direct, easy answers when you first encounter it? It does not work that way, but it does not invalidate the basic phenomenon.[15]

(U) Nevertheless, an overwhelming number of government and military officials still appear to fear humiliation for accepting the existence of psychic phenomena. However, an intelligent general public, with nothing to lose, appears to overwhelmingly believe. According to a poll conducted by the CBS News program 48 Hours, which aired on 8 February 1990, Dan Rather conceded, "Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe in ESP or mental telepathy and 25 percent said they had personally experienced so called 'paranormal' phenomena."[16]

(U) This paper addresses this phenomena which still defies explanation. However, due to the secretive nature of this topic and the promise to protect the sensitivity of current programs and the anonymity of some sources consulted, reporting the totality of current research is not possible.

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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Therefore, the information in this paper includes only that which several US government sources involved in this sensitive research deemed releasable during the summer and fall of 1992. Nevertheless, the data provided will contribute to better informed judgements about whether this branch of inquiry deserves a further look for possible application in an intelligence gathering capacity.

(U) Chapter 2 addresses the alleged Soviet advances in this field, Chapter 3 details the research conducted in the US, Chapter 4 focuses on the potential that remote viewing has as an intelligence collection tool, and counterintelligence threat, and Chapter 5 posits conclusions based on the previous 4 chapters.

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

CHAPTER 2

THE SOVIET ADVANTAGE

(U) The Soviets are working on dramatically exotic new weapons, twenty-five years ahead of anything ever conceived in the US--so awesome as to lead the Soviets to believe that in the coming decade they would be capable of total neutralization of our ballistic and submarine missiles.[17]

Major General George J. Keegan
Former Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence
United States Airforce 1977

MARKED DIFFERENCES

(U) Historically, scientists from the former Soviet Union researched paranormal phenomena from a more empirical standpoint than the US. They generally accepted that this phenomena was explainable through controlled experiments along the same lines as biology and physiology. In contrast, the US tried to prove that paranormal phenomena does not deserve the same serious inquiry as do the hard sciences.

(U) The results of these two conflicting philosophies has lead to a well-organized, well-disciplined parapsychology program in the former Soviet Union as opposed to a splintered,

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unorganized program in the US. Additionally, the Soviets' regard for parapsychology as a science added legitimacy for their policymakers to sanction and fund paranormal research.

(S/NF) In addition to these differences in philosophical approaches there exist stark differences in the experimental techniques used by former Soviet and US researchers. In the US the subject, or remote viewer, is in a completely normal, conscious state. The Russians reportedly rely heavily on hypnotism, biofeedback, yoga, and drugs to induce trances and trance-like states.[18]

(U) Seriousness in the former Soviet Union about paranormal phenomena is evidenced by a 25 to 50-year advantage in research. Addressing this contrast in approaches regarding paranormal research, US Army Medical Service Corps Captain Richard Groller stated in 1984:

> (U) The general premise in this country regarding parapsychological phenomena has been, "First prove to me that it exists, then I'll believe it." Counter to this has been the basic Soviet premise regarding parapsychology phenomena which is, "We believe that something exists that has no normal, rational, explanation--let us investigate it."[19]

(U) Captain Groller's outlook still applies today in the US. Dr. Edgar M. Johnson, Technical Director and Chief

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Psychologist at the US Army Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI), questioned about this perspective in October of 1992, answered:

> (U) Why would we expect it to exist? Where are the principles on which it should operate? Whether or not you can find it, what is the theoretical basis that leads us to believe it is there? An example of what I mean, in military context, is the creation of the first atom bomb. We spent several billion dollars building it, but at the end of its construction, it worked. There was a theoretical basis for believing that, if we did things a certain way, the results were predictable. There is no theoretical basis for believing that remote viewing, ESP, and other parapsychological skills should exist. We do not know the theory that says it should be there. Moreover, we do not know of any body of data that supports its existence.[20]

(U) When questioned on the issue of parapsychology lacking a theoretical basis for existence, SG1J [redacted] provided a counterpoint:

> (U) This has not been too much of a concern from my point of view, although it's bothering. I have been caught up in a lot of the quantum physics issues and concepts in the parapsychological area, but there are topics from conventional physics that have no real good clear explanation even today, yet we accept them readily. One example is gravity. While it is certainly proven and highly repeatable time after time, everybody accepts the fact that there is something called gravity, but what is unknown about gravity is exactly how does it work?

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> What is the mechanism? Is there an action at a distance, and if so, how? No one, so far, has actually measured and detected a graviton, although this is the speculative particle for how such action at a distance should work. So, once you think about gravity in this light, given the fact that there are some elegant theories that have been developed to explain how it behaves, it still does not explain how gravity reaches out into the universe and causes these interactions. The graviton is as elusive today as it was when it was speculated decades ago, so, given the fact that we do not fully understand such readily accepted things as gravity, I do not have any particular difficulty, psychologically, in not being able to explain ESP. The fact that there is no theoretical model for this phenomenon should not be a deterrent to striving to find what that theoretical base is, or even more practically, trying to apply the phenomenon.[21]

(U) Thus, while the former Soviet Union has apparently been able to steadily continue its parapsychological research unburdened by philosophy, research in the US has been hindered by a lack of philosophical consensus. Almost a decade has gone by since Captain Groller estimated the strategic threat posed by Soviet remote viewing research:

> (U) In time, the Soviets may be able to learn the contents of top secret documents, trace the movements of our troops and ships, and know the location and nature of our military installations. Additionally, the Soviets may be able to mold the thoughts of key US military and civilian leaders from a distance, cause the instant death of any US Army official at a distance, and disable US

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military equipment of all types including spacecraft.[22]

(U) The former Soviets' seriousness was also indicated in a report prepared by the Congressional Research Service, an arm of the Library of Congress. This report states that Soviet spending on parapsychological related phenomena throughout the 1980s resulted in tens of millions of dollars spent annually. By contrast, total funding for parapsychological research in the US did not exceed $500,000 annually, with most of the money coming from foundations and other private sources.[23]

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(S) Russian and, later, Soviet parapsychological research is traceable back to World War I, when the Institute of Brain Research in Petrograd was formed. The founder, V.M. Bechterev, promoted investigation into this phenomenon by forming a Commission for the Study of Mental Suggestion. In 1924, as a result of positive findings at the Brain Research Institute, the Second All-Russian Congress of Psychoneurology recommended additional research into the study of the

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paranormal and formed the Society for Neurology, Reflexology, Hypnotism and Biophysics.[24]

(S) In the 1930s, L.L. Vasilyev, a protegee of Bechterev, was commissioned with the task of uncovering the mysticism associated with telepathy. The results of his findings, not published until early 1960, apparently revealed some eye-opening findings, because during the same year, Vasilyev formed a new group to study telepathy within the Physiology and Biology Department of Leningrad University.[25]

(U) Nevertheless, while the subject was afforded more respect in the USSR than the US, it was not always the case throughout the 20th century. Up until the late 1950s, parapsychology was looked upon in the former USSR with skepticism and indifference because of no "hard" scientific data. Actually, what only amounted to little more than the stern ostracism by the orthodox US scientific community toward Americans pursuing parapsychology, was severe by comparison in the Soviet Union. Because Marxist philosophy claimed that history was determined by material reality, Stalin, a staunch opponent of anomalous study, considered scientists who dabbled in it as heretics. Their penalty was either death by firing squad, or a one-way ticket to Siberia. Therefore, research prior to the death of Stalin in 1953 was conducted underground

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by curious scientists, without government sanctions, who provided their own funding and facilities.[26]

(U) However, in 1960, spurred by popular press reports of Party Chairman Brezhnev's affiliation with a psychic healer, as well by a French press report that the US was conducting telepathic sub-to-shore experiments from the US Navy submarine Nautilus, located at the North Pole, the Soviets reevaluated their own interests in mental telepathy. Although later revealed as untrue, this press report caused quite a stir in the Soviet Union and acted as a catalyst for its own paranormal research. Reportedly, this bogus Nautilus episode prompted the Soviets to conduct their own sub-to-shore experiment. Ronald M. McRea recounts in his book Mind Wars: The True Story of Government Research into the Military Potential of Psychic Weapons that the Soviets implanted electrodes deep inside the brain of a mother rabbit who had just given birth.[27] While observing the behavior of the mother rabbit in a laboratory on the shore, the newly born babies were taken out to sea in a submarine. The Soviets noted that at each synchronized time that a baby rabbit was intentionally butchered, a sharp reaction in the mother rabbit's brain was recorded by the electrodes. The Soviets concluded the experiment a success because the signals from

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the electrodes revealed that communication had taken place between the mother rabbit and her displaced babies. This experiment was viewed as a response to Party philosophy of not falling behind in any area of research no matter how little understood.

(S/NF) Soviet difficulties in remote viewing research surfaced in 1973 at a parapsychology conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Questions asked by Soviet scientists indicated that they were trying to learn as much as possible about western work without revealing the extent of their own research. Their inquiry also reflected that they were encountering some problems with emotional reactions on the part of their psychic subjects, and that they considered remote viewing to be the most promising area of parapsychology.[28] Subsequently, two visiting Soviets in the US, a space systems engineer and a cosmonaut, sought out US scientists with strong backgrounds in remote viewing research. Although these two Soviets tried to present themselves in a nonchalant, uninterested demeanor when asking specific questions about the status and progress of US remote viewing research, their well-rehearsed agenda of questions indicated that they had been well briefed on items of interest to their homeland. Specifically, they were interested in the

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following: methods of inducing trance-like states, and whether machines or the techniques of suggestion, hypnosis, special training, or repeated practice, were used in training personnel to use "abnormal" abilities.[29]

(S/NF) The Central Intelligence Agency concluded from these attempts by the Soviets to collect information on remote viewing that:

> (S/NF) The Soviets either had encountered research difficulties or were trying to gain expertise from US researchers, or trying to acquire details about what they believed to be a large, covert research program. Nevertheless, the Soviets believed that US researchers had experimental expertise that would significantly benefit the Soviet program.[30]

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[redacted]

(U) Possibly illustrative of former Soviet resolve to cash in on using the power of the mind, is the mysterious bombardment of microwaves on the US Embassy in Moscow 1975 and 1976. One probable reason for this bombardment appears to be that the microwaves were used to make detection of Soviet

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listening devices extremely difficult, or that they were being used as an electronic countermeasure to jam US electronic eavesdropping equipment in the embassy. Another, much less conventional, hypothesis offered by Martin Ebon in his book, Psychic Warfare: Threat or Illusion?, is that the Soviets were using this radiation to effect mind-changes in embassy personnel by tuning microwaves to the level of brain waves and recording feedback activity in the form of emotions, images and thoughts. Ebon claims that the potential of microwave brain manipulation stretches the farthest reaches of our imagination, and that the possibility of President Carter being subjected to some form of esoteric mind manipulation during the Vienna SALT II talks cannot be ruled out.[32] It was noted by the majority of the White House staff that when President Carter returned to Washington after Vienna, he was appeared mired by indecision, and demonstrated erratic personality and behavior swings. This change in the President's character prompted the resignation of thirty-four of his cabinet and staff members. According to Ted Stevens, an Alaskan Republican, "some of us are seriously worried that he might be approaching some sort of mental problem."[33]

(U) Ebon's claim is not without merit because ironically, Vasilyev's work, published in 1960, entitled

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"Experiments in Distant Influence," asserted that very low-level radiation could affect living organisms by causing dizziness, emotional instability, and hallucinations. He also hypothesized that thoughts could be grafted into microwaves in the same way television signals carry pictures and sound, opening the possibility of long-distance hypnosis or mind-control.[34]

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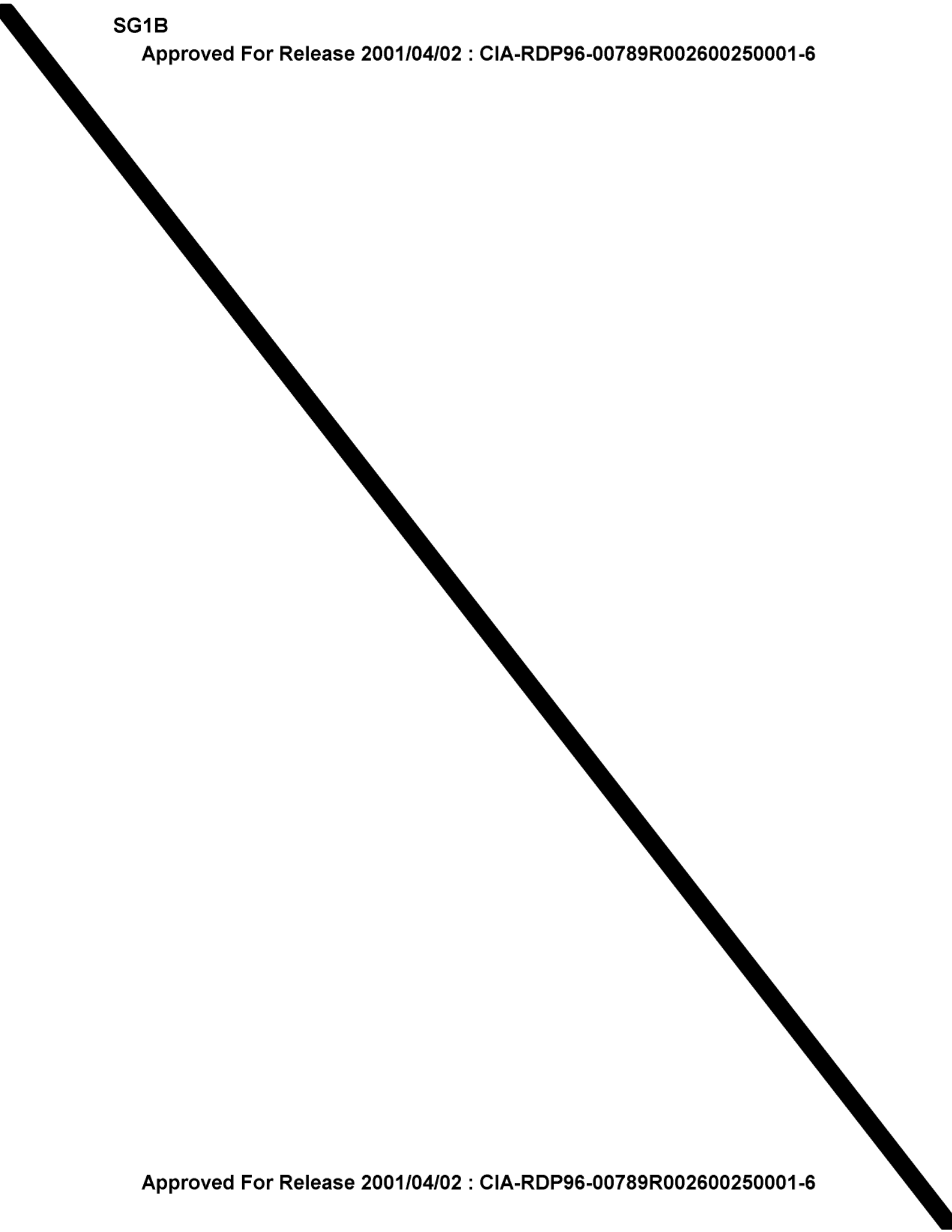

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MIND OVER MATTER

(U) In addition to the former Soviets' interest and study in remote viewing, they have also shown considerable enthusiasm in the examination of telekinesis; the ability to move small objects by using the power of the mind. One frequently reported mind-over-matter event involved a Mrs. Nina Kulagina from Leningrad. On 10 March 1970, she demonstrated her mental ability to stop a frog's heartbeat in 40 seconds. A cardiogram linked to the frog's heart, which was separated from its body and placed on a container of saline solution, revealed a sudden burst of electric energy resembling the impact of an electric shock. Although the separated heart would have ultimately stopped beating after

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approximately two hours, there was a pronounced correlation between Kulagina's concentration to cease the heart's activity and the electronic cardiogram's record of the abruptness and abnormal circumstances under which it stopped.

(U) Mrs. Kulagina, never accused of any kind of trickery, conducted most of her demonstrations in the company of respected medical professionals, including numerous western observers. She also demonstrated the mental ability to move small objects while keeping her hands a substantial distance away, the ability to move a magnetic compass needle in a 360-degree motion, and the power to induce painful skin burns on the arms of people she simply touched.

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(U) Although the political and economic unrest which continues into the Autumn of 1992 in Russia and throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States will most likely cause

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significant setbacks to their investigative research, it seems apparent their continued study and possible breakthroughs in this field could add significant dimensions to the modern-day battlefield.

(U) Such paranormal abilities would pose significant problems if used in a military capacity. In the US, the phrase "if looks could kill" is commonly used but dismissed as an impossibility. Suppose, as demonstrated in Russia by the stopping of the frog's heartbeat, thoughts could kill? Potential military applications would revolutionize warfare to an extent scarcely imaginable.

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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CHAPTER 3

HUBRIS IN THE US GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE ?

ROBOTMAN by Jim Meddick
OUR CLINIC IS VERY INTERESTED IN MARGARET HERE.. SHE APPARENTLY HAS PSYCHIC DREAMS..
..DREAMS THAT FORETELL THE FUTURE..
LAST NIGHT I DREAMT THAT A SURPRISE STATE INSPECTION CLOSED THIS CLINIC ON ETHICS VIOLATIONS.
HA!HA!HA!.. BUT CLEARLY NOT ALL OF MARGARET'S DREAMS CAN BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!
DID YOU NOTICE A CALENDAR IN THE DREAM? WAS THERE ANY MENTION OF A DATE? THINK! THINK! THINK!...

Source: Jim Meddick, "Robot Man," The Boston Globe, 21 March 1992.

(U) Skepticism and a lack of faith epitomizes the less serious approach in the US toward remote viewing. Unfortunately, it seems that irrefutable proof is the criteria for acceptance.

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A NEED TO BELIEVE ?

(U) Many who are skeptical about parapsychology claim its data so inconclusive that it stifles their belief, while supporters of this phenomenon argue that their belief is justified by positive experimental data. Most of those reluctant to accept remote viewing as a valid study claim that convincing "proof" does not exist. Faith in the fact of this phenomenon is an important ingredient for acceptance. Thus, the promotion of paranormal research, can, for the scientist, be considered similar to that of a clergy member promoting religion. V.M. Bleykher pointed out in 1972, in his book Parapsychology: Science or Superstition?:

> (U) In parapsychological convictions it is chiefly faith which operates. People believe blindly in the myths they have chosen. The similarity to religious beliefs is striking. Those who have spoken with believers on subjects of religion know full well how difficult it is to approach them with deductions of logic or arguments of a scientific sort. Fanaticism and a unique intellectual blindness are common traits of religious and parapsychological beliefs.[39]

(U) Dr. J.B. Rhine of Duke University in North Carolina, who started exploring paranormal phenomena in the early 1920s agreed. He wrote in 1974:

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> (U) A wide variety of practices in which capacities of parapsychical nature were assumed have prevailed throughout the history of mankind in all its cultures. We may note first the more formal religions; in these, the assumptions of parapsychical powers and agencies are an essential part of the doctrine.[40]

(U) Christians do not deem irrefutable proof as a condition for accepting that Jesus Christ walked on water or created wine from water. Yet, these believers are not considered crazy for their convictions. In fact, the Catholic Church recognizes controversial subject matters like exorcism, and does not shun claims that near-death experiences occur. With this in mind, one might reasonably ask if remote viewing or out-of-body experience should be such a far-fetched concept?

25X1A (U) [redacted] a member of the Foreign Counterintelligence faculty at the Defense Intelligence College in Washington, DC, with over twenty three years of counter intelligence investigative experience, believes that remote viewing should not be considered foolish:

> (U) Over the years, I have met people who have had near-death experiences, or accomplished out-of-body experiences while in meditation. Some of these people, highly religious, believe that every human being is capable of effecting out-of-body experiences. While undergoing these experiences, these people claim that they were able to mentally

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> travel, from the location of their physical self, to another location where they could observe activity remote from their physical self. Also, I read Robert Monroe's book Journeys Out of the Body, and believe very much in what Monroe claims, that most, if not all, humans have this capability.[41]

25X1A (U) [redacted] willingness to accept the fact of psychic phenomena, including remote viewing, provides evidence that attention continues to be paid to research and scholarship in this field. In the 1980s, for example, one may read two authorities who provided substantial basis for the views of Schweitzer and others who continue to have scholarly interest in this field.

(U) Thomas E. Beardon, a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel who has written extensively on the parapsychology program in the former Soviet Union, observed in 1981:

> (U) The West has been solidly imprisoned in its own orthodox view of psychics, and hence has been unable to surmount the stone walls of its self-imposed mental barriers. In fact, it has not even tried. The orthodox establishment continues to vigorously attack the experiments as unscientific, and the experimenters who struggle with paranormal research as frauds and charlatans.[42]

(U) In 1985, Dr. Russell Targ, a laser physicist at Stanford Research Institute who has conducted numerous

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experiments on remote viewing, echoed the sentiments of Beardon:

> (U) The reasons more people have not actively explored their psychic capabilities are clear. Everywhere we look, we find images of psychic functioning that are confusing, intimidating, misleading, and terrifying...Meanwhile, critics of parapsychology, who often know next to nothing about this phenomenon, condemn the scientific work in this field out of fear of its philosophical implication.[43]

SRI TESTS

(U) It is ironic that the US is apparently at a disadvantage regarding research on remote viewing because, despite the lack of support for this research, the CIA conducted controlled tests as early as 1973 on this phenomenon with astonishing results. These tests were conducted at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) at Menlo Park California, by the two most noteworthy mavericks and pioneers of remote viewing: Harold Puthoff and Russell Targ, both of whom have impeccable credentials as scientists. Targ has important copyright patterns to his credit in the laser field. Puthoff, a Stanford Ph.D., in addition to also having laser copyright

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patents, has coauthored a textbook in quantum physics...neither is a novice in physical research.[44]

(U) The general procedure for these tests was to closet the remote viewer with an interviewer from the institute, in a windowless room within a laboratory of the SRI complex. At a prearranged time, an SRI researcher, who acted as a conduit for the remote viewer, retrieved one of 60 targets cards from a locked safe and departed for a location dictated on his target card. The target cards, numbered from one to sixty, were selected by the conduit by using a random-number function on a Texas Instruments hand calculator, therefore, the target selected from the safe was neither known by the remote viewer nor the interviewer. Thus, the interviewer could not aid or elicit a positive target response from the remote viewer. The target sites were all within a 30-minute driving time from SRI. When a predetermined viewing time arrived, the remote viewer was asked to draw and describe what he envisioned at the target site. Verbal descriptions of the target site were also recorded on a tape recorder. The person at the target site simply paid attention to the environment of the site for 15 minutes then returned to the lab. After all of the raw data was compiled, the target person, the remote viewer, and the interviewer returned to the target site to discuss the

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

test. This was done to afford the remote viewer an opportunity to evaluate his own abilities.

(U) After six of these experiments were completed and their data compiled, data packages, to include the remote viewer's sketches, transcripts, and target card, were forwarded to SRI researchers, or "judges," who were tasked to revisit the target sites and assign a package to the site. To assign a quantitative value to these tests, the SRI judge assessed the viewer's transcript against the target. From the transcript a list of six concepts were developed and numerically rated on a scale of zero to ten. A concept was usually descriptive in nature and represented by a one-word adjective (i.e."red," "tall," "bright") or phrase. A zero constituted no correlation between the transcript and the target site, and a ten represented exact correlation. The judge then computed the arithmetic average of the six concepts and arrived at a success rating for each individual experiment. As described by Puthoff:

> (U) The quality of the results was such that the judges, who had to determine in a blind fashion which viewer-generated data packages were associated with which target sites, were able to match transcripts to targets in first place in roughly half the cases, an exceptionally significant result.[45]

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(U) In 1978, Puthoff and Targ conducted a similar series of experiments designed to determine the resolution capability of remote viewing. In these experiments, the remote viewer was again closeted with an interviewer while a target person proceeded to a randomly selected location approximately 1/8 of a mile from the SRI complex. In these experiments, however, the remote viewer was not to report on the location of the target person, but on an item concealed in a 35mm film canister carried by the target person.

(U) To prepare for this series of experiments, an experimenter previously unassociated with remote viewing experiments, was tasked to select ten small items and deposit each in separate 35mm light-tight canisters. This experimenter then sealed the canisters. The canister and its contents were neither known by the interviewer nor the target person. The canisters were then numbered from one to ten and secured them in a locked safe.

(U) In these tests, like in those discussed above, the location to where the target person carried the canister was determined by a random number function on a calculator. The target person remained at this site for ten minutes then returned to the laboratory where the remote viewer, the

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interviewer, and the target person learned the contents of the canister for the first time.

(U) The transcripts of ten experiments were then turned over to an independent judge who evaluated and compared descriptions given by the remote viewers to the actual contents in the canisters. Examples of the quality of the descriptions, as well as sketches prepared by the remote viewer are shown in Figure 1.

(U) In addition to local remote viewing experiments conducted within the San Francisco area, Puthoff and Targ also conducted long distance experiments with equally significant results.

(U) In these tests, conducted in 1973, two renowned American psychics projected their minds over long distances and accurately described secret military installations as well as classified materials within these installations. One of the psychics described in minute detail a remotely located Soviet installation in the Ural Mountains. Reportedly, this description was verified by CIA agents in the Soviet Union. The two psychics then focused on China, and once again CIA contacts in China reportedly confirmed their accuracy. When he saw the results of the tests, a security officer at the test facility exclaimed, "Hell, there's no security left."[46]

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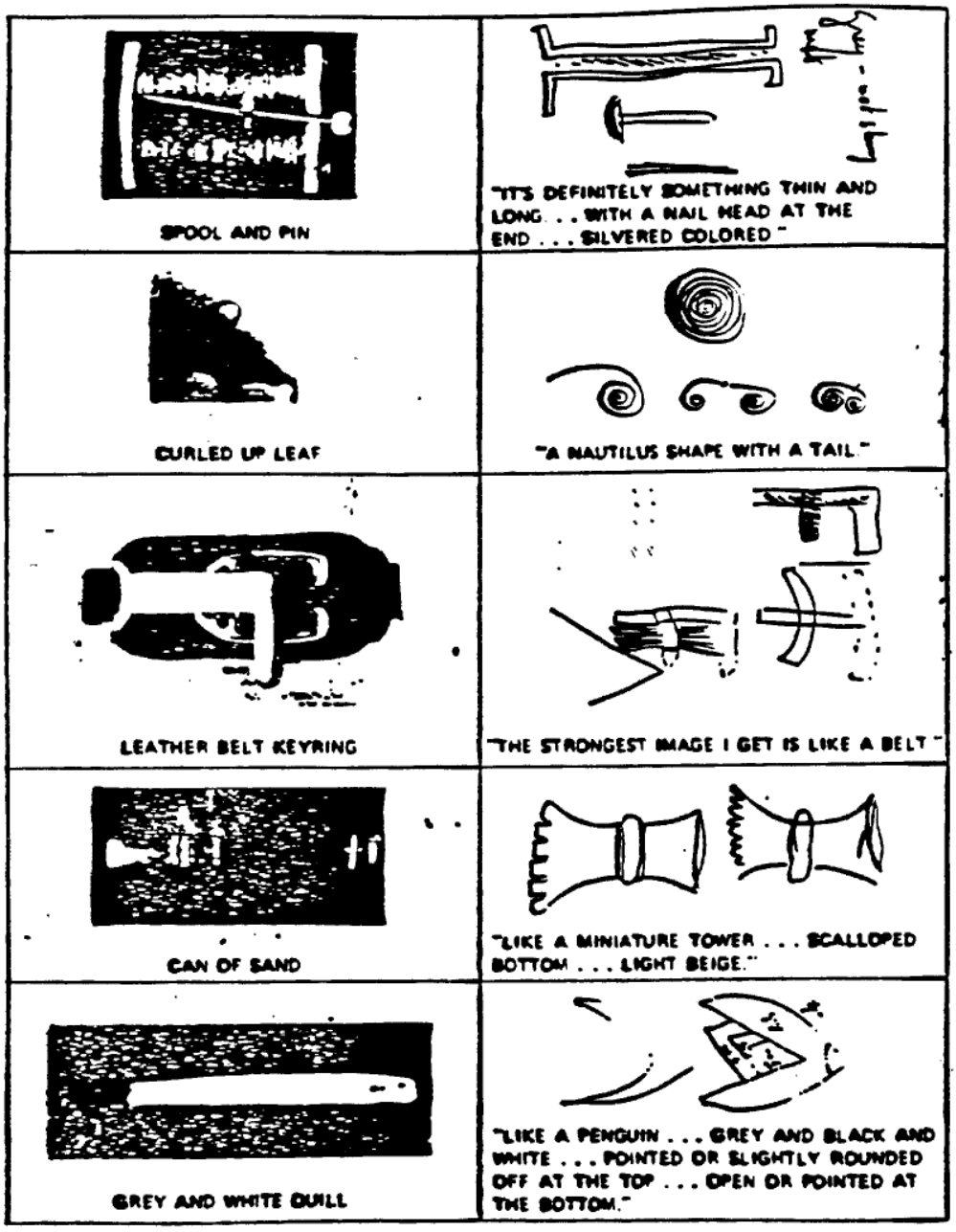
SPOOL AND PIN
"IT'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING THIN AND LONG . . . WITH A NAIL HEAD AT THE END . . . SILVERED COLORED"
CURLED UP LEAF
"A NAUTILUS SHAPE WITH A TAIL"
LEATHER BELT KEYRING
"THE STRONGEST IMAGE I GET IS LIKE A BELT"
CAN OF SAND
"LIKE A MINIATURE TOWER . . . SCALLOPED BOTTOM . . . LIGHT BEIGE."
GREY AND WHITE QUILL
"LIKE A PENGUIN . . . GREY AND BLACK AND WHITE . . . POINTED OR SLIGHTLY ROUNDED OFF AT THE TOP . . . OPEN OR POINTED AT THE BOTTOM."

Source: Puthoff, Resolution in Remote Viewing Studies: Mini- and Micro-Targets. Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, CA., 21, June 1979.

Figure 1: TARGET OBJECTS IN METAL CONTAINERS. Captions under subject drawings are quotes from first paragraph of transcript.

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(U) Although the nature of these test results seemed apparent in their complimentary value to Human Intelligence, Dr. Kenneth A. Kress sums up the Agency's reluctance to accept this remarkable data at face value:

> (S/NF) The Agency took the initiative by sponsoring serious parapsychological research, but circumstances, biases, and fear of ridicule prevented CIA from completing a scientific investigation of parapsychology and its relevance to national security...also there tend to be two types of reactions to parapsychology: positive or negative, with little in between...add a history replete with proven frauds and many people instantly reject the subject saying, in effect, "I would not believe this stuff even if it were true."[47]

(U) In addition, the west's hostile attitude on parapsychological research is further apparent in Doctor Richard S. Broughton's book, Parapsychology: The Controversial Science. According to Broughton, in December 1987, the US Army Research Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI) contracted with the National Research Council (NRC) to review human-performance technologies on paranormal ability. Normally, ARI would have hired an outside agency to supervise the NRC contracts in order to retain an impartial evaluation of the tests. However, on this occasion ARI hired a civilian army psychologist and former Deputy Director of

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Human Resources at the Pentagon's Advanced Research and Projects Agency (ARPA) to perform this task. According to Broughton, the irony in hiring this psychologist was that "he already had a record of being firmly opposed to some of the technologies under study."[48] More importantly, the subcommittee formed by the NRC consisted of no one with parapsychology experience.

(U) Dr. Edgar M. Johnson, Technical Director and Chief Psychologist at ARI, who directed this 1987 study defends the hiring of the NRC:

> The overriding question in this study was what data is there to explain any of these parapsychological claims? That was the biggest reason that we handed it off to the National Research Council through a contract. We believed that any in-house laboratory would not be credible if they said that these technologies did not work. The National Research Council, on the other hand, while their conclusions sometimes get watered down, represent the most impeccable source of scientific judgement that you can provide to the country.[49]

(U) However, according to the Parapsychological Association (PA), the NRC's report failed to deliver an objective and unbiased assessment of the tests. The PA concluded:

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> (U) With respect to the committee's central mission for the US Army, we have shown that the committee's prejudice against parapsychology has lead it to ignore research, the further development of which could have important implications for our national security.[50]

(U) Ironically enough, even though the PA's review of the NRC's report uncovered erroneous and incomplete data, a significant breakthrough had occurred: The military was looking at parapsychology as a "technology" for possible application. Surprisingly, the NRC report concluded with a recommendation that the Army monitor the Soviet Union's research in parapsychology. Prior to this mention there was no evidence of the committee's familiarity with parapsychology research in the Soviet Union.

(U) Dr. Johnson reflects on the council's findings and comments:

> (U) What the council found was that there was no theoretical basis for believing that this phenomena existed. However, we do not want to say, and this leads us to the least common denominator, that its impossible, so we periodically look to see what has turned up. Although we have not done any research in this area since the report, I am quite certain that some research still continues. I think that the reason that this phenomena attracted so much interest back when it did was that every body was looking for an edge. So, if we could have found something, it would have been a fantastic edge.[51]

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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(U) The fear that the Soviet Union might beat the US at something, which in the past has probably caused more military money to be spent on parapsychology than any other factor, was dying hard even in the era of glastnost.

(U) The media noted Congressional and military interest during the early 1980s. What outwardly seemed to be a short-lived spurt of support was developing into a steadily increasing flow. According to a press report in 1981, a study prepared for the House Science and Technology Committee said that the esoteric world of parapsychology -- involving such heavily disputed phenomena as remote viewing -- merited serious assessment by Congress.[52] Additionally, remote viewing was apparently used by the US military in 1981 to aid in the manhunt for General James L. Dozier who was abducted from his apartment in Verona by Italian terrorists.[53] Although remote viewing proved unsuccessful, and it frustrated US intelligence agencies who had to work alongside the psychics, it further exemplified the US military's willingness to employ this concept. On 5 November 1982 General Maxwell R. Thurman, then Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel wrote in a memorandum to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Army, "Can areas of emerging, nontraditional psychology offer

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the American soldier an advantage over his adversary? Does remote viewing hold potential value to the Army?"[54]

(U) Eventually, even skeptics like the Washington Post's Jack Anderson, who in 1981 referred to the Pentagon's study of the paranormal as "futuristic fantasies," "hogwash," and "voodoo warfare"[55], was singing a different tune. In 1984 he wrote:

> (U) But there are legitimate laboratory projects that may eventually unlock the mysteries of the human mind. One of the most promising is the testing of "remote viewing" --the claimed ability of some psychics to describe scenes thousands of miles away.[56]

(U) Regardless, an abundance of skeptics, termed by Ray Hyman as the "loyal opposition," battled against this controversial subject matter, and the media tainted parapsychology with sarcastic comments. Although a certain few, mainly those associated with this phenomenon, studied this activity seriously, a vast majority of others were skeptical and reluctant to accept that parapsychology merited valid concern. Nevertheless, the number of government and military professionals, as well as professionals in respected academic circles, who were willing to look further, increased because the mounting impressive evidence of successfully

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conducted parapsychological experiments was sufficiently compelling to keep them curious. Remote viewing was surviving the test of time and the wear and tear of hostile critics.

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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CHAPTER 4

AN INTELLIGENCE TOOL ?

> Attacking the mind is superior while attacking fortifications is inferior; mind war is superior, while combat is inferior.
>
> Kung Ming
> "Collected Writings of
> Zhuge Liang" 181-234 BC

POLITICAL AND MILITARY APPLICATIONS

(U) The concept of remote viewing, if ever accepted as a valid phenomenon, would provide a remarkable military surveillance technique, possibly enable a combatant to ensure victory, and save thousands of its side's lives. In Brad Steiger's book Astral Projection, Loring B. Williams, a 30-year veteran of research in paranormal phenomena, discusses optimistic strategic uses for remote viewing, as he recalls the US embarrassment after Gary Powers' U-2 surveillance mission was shot down over the Soviet Union. Williams writes

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on the possible advantageous role remote viewing could play in complimenting espionage:

> (U) If mind-travel is accepted scientifically we could place some well-trained subjects anywhere in the world who could survey the military might of any threat without the risk of detection or danger. These mind-travelers could tune in on high council meetings; could mentally search through political archives, and slip inside the minds of the political bodies of any nation's political and military's leaders. No longer would it be necessary for our agents to endanger their lives by spying around the world.[57]

(U) Steiger's book also illustrates beneficial tactical applications of remote viewing through out-of-body experience. Reportedly, a young German soldier in World War I had the ability to project himself out of his body to spy on the divisional headquarters of a nearby French unit. When the soldier reported to his intelligence officer that the French were planning to attack German positions the following evening at 2300 hours, the officer scoffed at him until a number of the young soldier's comrades convinced the officer to let the soldier prove his ability. The officer challenged the soldier to project himself upon their own headquarters, several kilometers away, and report to him activity that was taking place there. The young soldier agreed and lapsed into a trance-like state.[58]

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(U) When he stirred a few minutes later he reported that an Austrian General had just arrived at division headquarters with orders. After copying down the general's orders as relayed by the young soldier, the intelligence officer phoned division headquarters to confirm the soldier's report. Headquarters showed immediate concern that there was a leak in security, because there was no conceivable way that the intelligence officer, so far away from division headquarters, could possibly know the orders that headquarters had just moments before received from the general. The intelligence officer explained his source and reported the young soldier's claim that the French were planning an offensive scheduled for 2300 hours the following night. The newly convinced intelligence officer requested reinforcements. The officers at division headquarters dismissed this convincing demonstration as nonsense, and as a result, the young soldier's unit was overrun and captured by the French the next night at 2300 hours.[59]

(U) The proposition that remote viewing is a phenomenon that warrants further research as a collection tool is also voiced by Martin Ebon in his book Psychic Warfare: Threat or Illusion. He compares his thoughts with Lieutenant Colonel John B. Alexander, a respected authority on this subject. Alexander's article looked at the possibility of remote

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viewing as an employable weapon on the future battlefield. He noted that the Soviets are "well in advance" in weapons that operate on the power of the mind. He also noted that the lethal capacity of these weapons has already been demonstrated. He pointed to the "intelligence gathering capability" of remote viewing and claimed that the strategic and tactical applications of this technique are unlimited. According to Alexander:

> (U) When finally developed, this capability could ultimately allow an operator to enter an enemy headquarters at will to observe plans and dispositions. On the battlefield, one could reconnoiter an area from the physical safety of his own location.[60]

(S/NF) Dr. Kress in his 1977 article, "Parapsychology and Intelligence," outlines the CIA's interest in remote viewing as an intelligence gathering tool. According to his report, personnel from the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) and Office of Research and Development (ORD) met with Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff in April 1972. From April 1972 to February 1973 the CIA was so impressed with the results of Stanford Research Institute experiments on remote viewing that the CIA's Office of Technical Services (OTS) encouraged "the development of a more complete research

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plan."[61] It was during this time period that Kress, the CIA's Project Officer, was introduced to ex-police commissioner and vice mayor of Burbank, California, Pat Price. Price, to date, is noted as Stanford Research Institute's most successful remote viewer.

(U) One notable experiment involving Price, as recounted by Ronald M. McRea in his book Mind Wars: The True Story of Government Research into the Military Potential of Psychic Weapons, produced some noteworthy results. In this experiment, the CIA passed the geographic coordinates of a series of targets in an area of Virginia approximately 135 miles southwest of Washington, DC, to Price. The results of this experiment were not scoffed at by the CIA:

> (U) beginning with a description of the area from an altitude of 1,500 feet and ending with a tour through building interiors, the results were complete with descriptions of equipment, names from desks, and--just to show that Price was serious--a list of a dozen labelings on file folders locked in a file cabinet. Three weeks later, the CIA informed Puthoff that Price was right. Exactly right.[62]

(S/NF) The first actual intelligence collection operation conducted by the CIA and Price using remote viewing took place in early 1974. The target was an unidentified

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Soviet research and development facility. Dr. Kress, after reviewing satellite reconnaissance photos, decided to have Price focus on a tall crane and four structures resembling oil well derricks at the location. Price was furnished with the geographic coordinates of these targets, a world atlas map marked with the approximate location of the facility, and was told that it was Soviet research and development facility.[63]

(S/NF) The next day Price furnished Kress with a drawing of what Price described as a "damned big crane" (see SG1I Figure 2.) Regardless, Kress remained skeptical because Price never mentioned the derricks. When asked why he did not see the derricks Price replied that they were not there any more. Kress, because he had not verified his data during the past three months, rechecked the latest reconnaissance photos. To his surprise, the new photos revealed that two of the derricks were partially disassembled.[64]

(S/NF) Nevertheless, Kress maintained that all four were visible, therefore, he concluded:

> (S/NF) In general, most of Price's data were wrong or could not be evaluated. He did, nevertheless, produce some amazing descriptions, like buildings then under construction, spherical tank sections, and the crane. But, again, since there was bad information mixed in with the good, the overall result was not considered useful. The ORD officers concluded that since there were no control experiments to compare with, the data were nothing but lucky guessing.[65]

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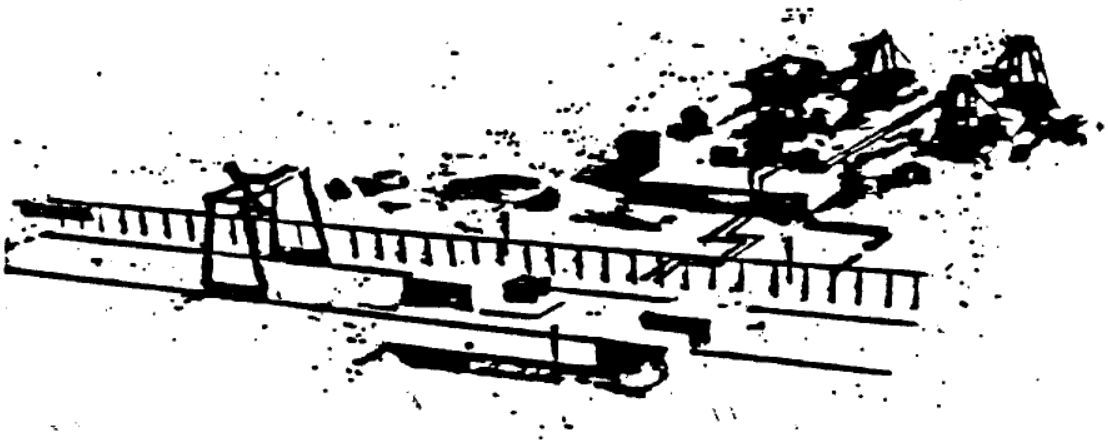
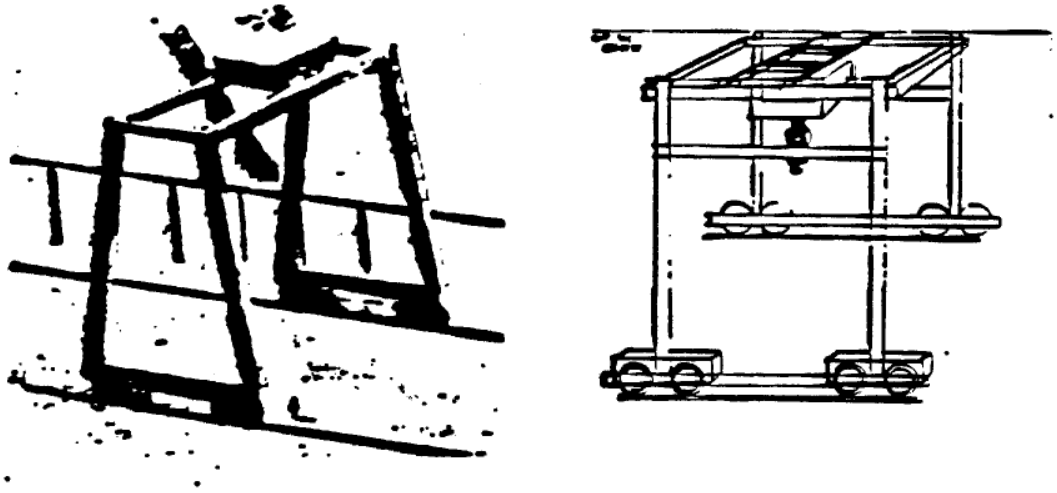


(a) TARGET SITE



(b) CRANE COMPARISON

Figure 2:

Comparison of Target Site and Drawing by Remote Viewer

Source: Kress, "Parapsychology in Intelligence...," Studies in Intelligence, 21, no. 2, Spring 1977.

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(S/NF) Nevertheless, Kress, who must not have been wholeheartedly convinced that this bad data spoiled the whole test, sought the opinion of a disinterested consultant. The man chosen, a theoretical physicist with a reputable intellectual background, was tasked to first review the field of parapsychology, and then evaluate the CIA's data. He determined that, "a large body of reliable experimental evidence points to the inescapable conclusion that extrasensory perception does exist as a real phenomenon, albeit characterized by rarity and lack of reliability."[66] According to Kress, even though there was still skepticism, this simple opinion, offered by a competent scientist, was enough to keep the CIA's parapsychological research alive.

(S/NF) Price's next test was to remotely view the coderooms within two foreign embassies. His results were to be verified by US audio teams who had years before gained access into these chosen facilities. He was given photographs of the embassies' exteriors and their geographical coordinates. The results of these tests revealed:

> (S/NF) In both cases, Price correctly located the coderooms. He produced copious data, such as the location of interior doors and colors of marble stairs and fireplaces that were accurate and specific. As usual, much was also vague and incorrect. Regardless, the operations officer involved concluded, "It is my considered opinion

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

> that this technique--whatever it is--offers definite operational possibilities.[67]

(S/NF) This operation, considered a success by the CIA, further justified the continuation of CIA's interest in remote viewing. In fact, it was after these sets of tests that the CIA, in order to protect Price's identity and abilities, stopped testing through Stanford Research Institute and signed Price to a personal services contract.

(S/NF) The last test involving Price before his untimely death involved viewing a request for intelligence (RFI) on a Libyan training facility:

> (S/NF) A report describing a guerrilla training site was quickly returned by Price. It contained a map-like drawing of the complex. Price described a related underwater sabotage training facility site several hundred kilometers away on the sea coast. This information was passed to the Libyan desk. Some data were evaluated immediately, some were evaluated only after ordering special reconnaissance coverage. New information produced by Price was verified by reconnaissance. The underwater sabotage training facility description was similar to a collateral agent's report.[68]

(U) Evidently, the CIA could not determine if Price's seemingly fruitful demonstrations merited further exploration because, since his death in 1975, there have been no further CIA-sponsored tests on remote viewing as a collection tool.

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The Associated Press claimed that the CIA scaled down its involvement in paranormal research because it was under intense scrutiny on Capital Hill during the mid-seventies resulting from the Agency's alleged involvement with the Watergate scandal. The Agency's apparent view was that continued involvement in something as controversial as parapsychology experiments would further denigrate its professional standing among community clients, as well as among Congressional oversight committees.

(U) The Agency's subsequent lack of seriousness on remote viewing is reflected in CIA director Admiral Stansfield Turner's attitude. While attending a breakfast for journalists in 1977, Turner responded to a question asked about the validity of remote viewing by commenting that the CIA:

> had an individual who from time to time was able to draw very elementary sketches of street scenes in foreign countries where he had never been. Sometimes these sketches had a reasonable relationship to reality, however, this subject died in 1975, and we haven't heard from him since."[69]

(U) Meanwhile, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) picked up the slack. Neither agency was shy to admit that they would continue modest testing into remote viewing with the hope of

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perfecting this phenomenon to the point of application. According to Ronald McRea, author of the book Mind Wars: The True Story of Government Research into the Military Potential of Psychic Weapons, [redacted] who headed the Defense Intelligence Agency's office responsible for tracking leads on MIAs who may still be alive, employed psychics to assist in his operation. In 1982 [redacted] claimed, "some of these psychics' leads have checked out...they have been able to visualize aircraft crashes, and we have found the wreckage where they indicated."[70] Subsequently, DARPA's director, Dr. George Lawrence, was ordered by his superiors to find something to satisfy Congressional demands to match purported Soviet efforts in the field.[71]

SG1J

SG1J

(U) A 1983 New York Times article echoed the claim by the Associated Press that DARPA exhibited interest in remote viewing. The article recounts an experiment conducted by Russell Targ in 1976. In this instance Targ acted as a conduit in New York City while a remote viewer at Stanford Research Institute in California typed his impression of Targ's location. The site, chosen only minutes prior to the actual test time, was the central water fountain in Washington Square Park. On a terminal linked into DARPA's computer network the viewer typed, "The first image I got was of a

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cement depression--as if a dry fountain--with a cement post in the middle or inside. There seemed to be pigeons off to the right flying around the surface of the depression (see Figure 3.)[72] This report was confirmed by Targ who relayed that the fountain was dry, had a cement post in the middle from which to spray water, and was surrounded by pigeons.

(U) In addition to this test SRI conducted numerous other tests throughout the later 1970s with equally persuasive results (see Figures 4 thru 9.)[73]

(U) According to Charles Wallach, who has published several authoritative articles in the field of remote viewing, the most encouraging consideration of remote viewing is the fact that "such a large percentage of the population is found to be capable of conducting it, whether or not they are aware of this capability or have had any experience or interest in psychic phenomena."[74] Moreover, he discusses the cost effectiveness of remote viewing in intelligence collection as compared to the significant amount of money allocated to established sciences toward the detection of underground tunnels and the mapping of minefields. In his 1985 article in the Defense Intelligence Journal Wallach proposes:

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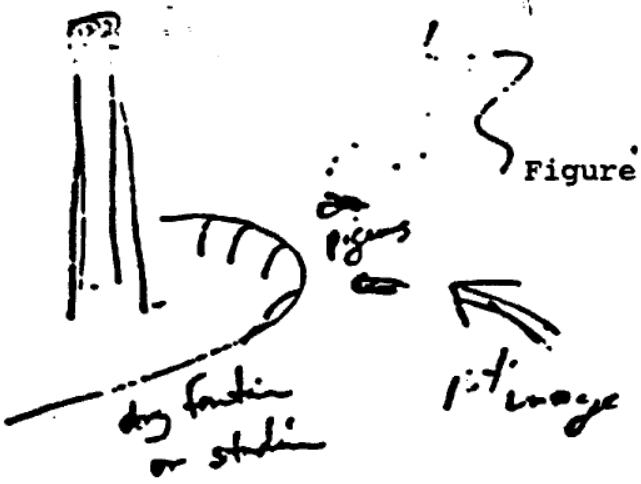

Figure 3: COAST TO COAST REMOTE VIEWING EXPERIMENT WITH TARGET AT WASHINGTON SQUARE IN NEW YORK CITY. SUBJECT'S FIRST PERCEPTION WAS OF A "CEMENT DEPRESSION - AS IF A DRY FOUNTAIN — WITH A CEMENT POST IN THE CENTER OR INSIDE".

WASHINGTON SQUARE IN NEW YORK CITY, USED AS TARGET IN COAST-TO-COAST REMOTE-VIEWING EXPERIMENT, 6 JULY 1976 (U)

Source: Puthoff and Targ, Advanced Threat Technique Assessment - Final Report (1977), July 1977.

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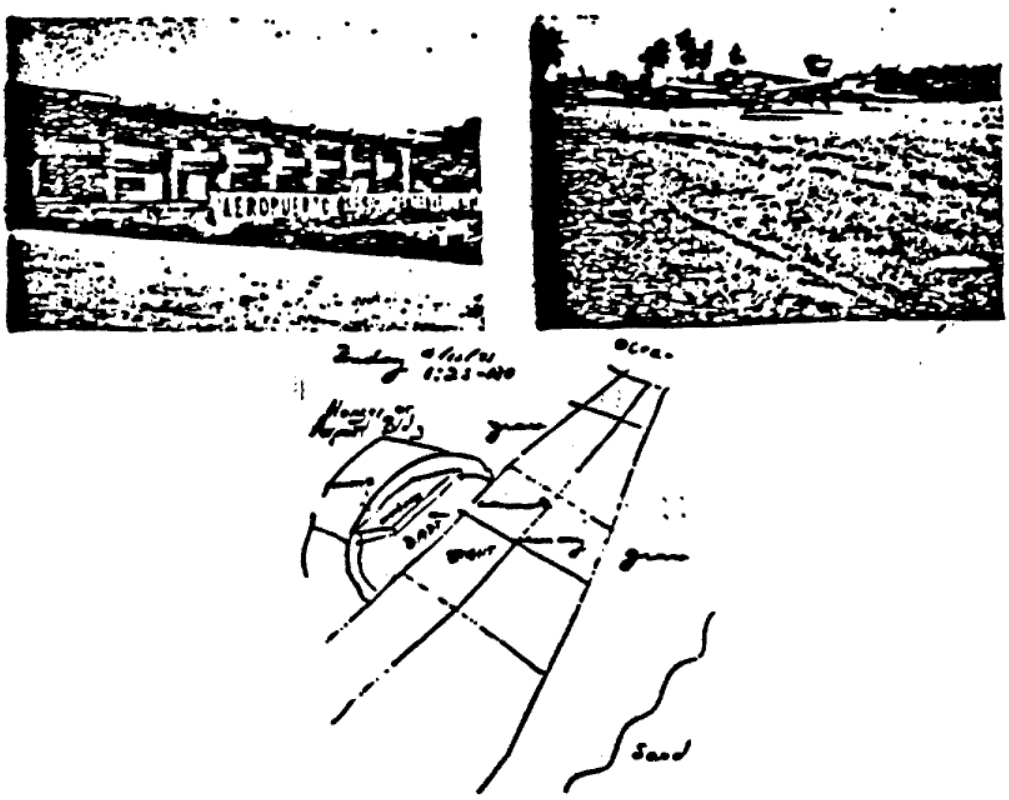

Figure 4: Airport in San Andres, Colombia, used as a remote viewing target, along with a sketch produced by subject in California.

Source: Puthoff and Targ, "A Perceptual Channel for Information Transfer Over Kilometer Distances: Historical Perspective and Recent Research," Proceedings of the IEEE, 64, no. 3, March 1976.

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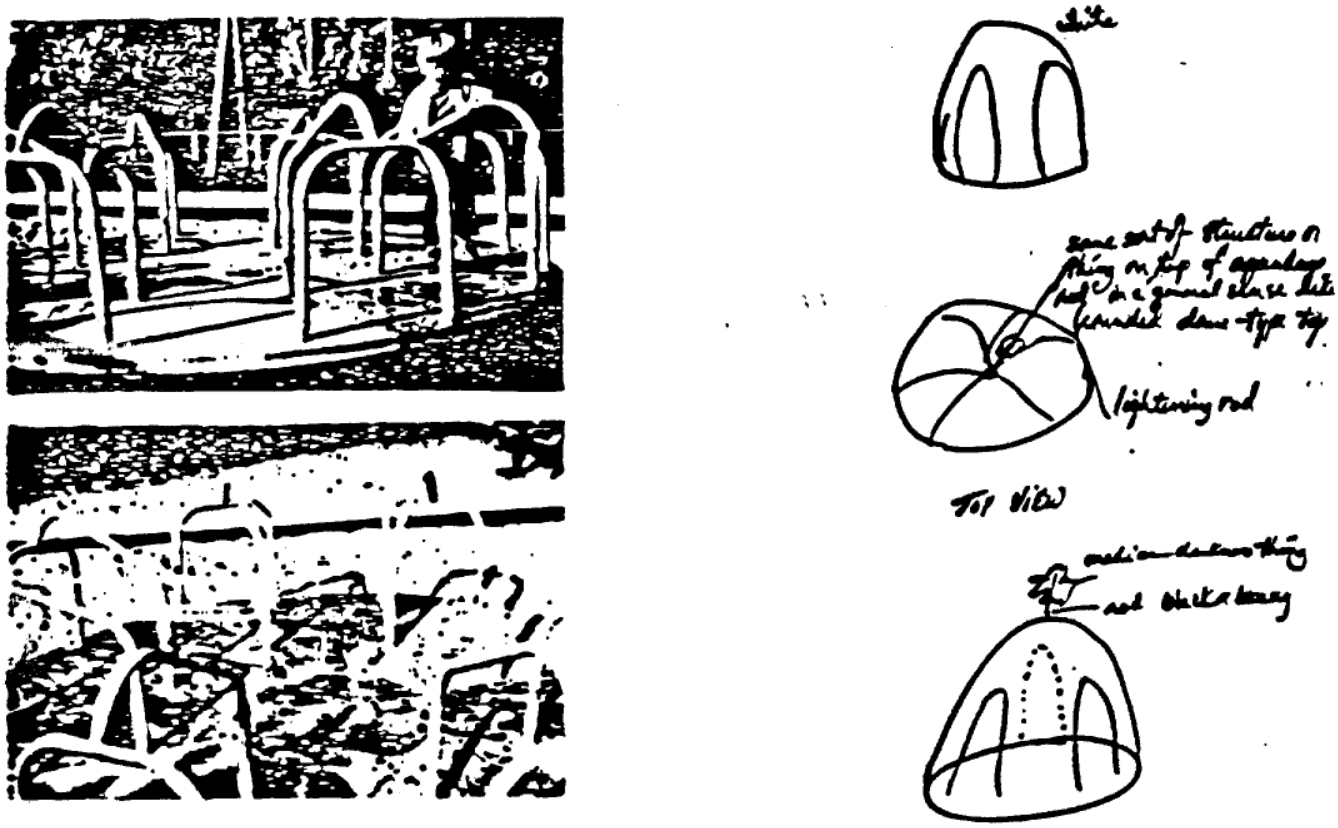

Figure 5: Subject drawing of merry-go-round target.

Source: Puthoff and Targ, "A Perceptual Channel for Information Transfer Over Kilometer Distances: Historical Perspective and Recent Research," Proceedings of the IEEE, 64, no. 3, March 1976.

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TARGET—TENNIS COURTS

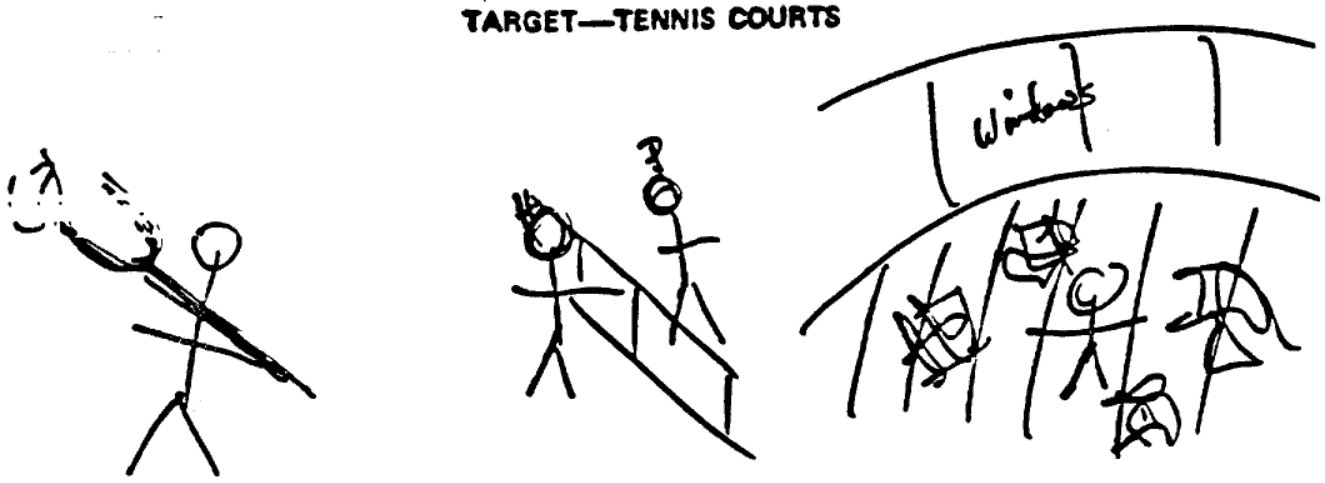

Figure 6: Drawings in response to tennis court target.

Source: Puthoff and Targ, "A Perceptual Channel for Information Transfer Over Kilometer Distances: Historical Perspective and Recent Research," Proceedings of the IEEE, 64, no. 3, March 1976.

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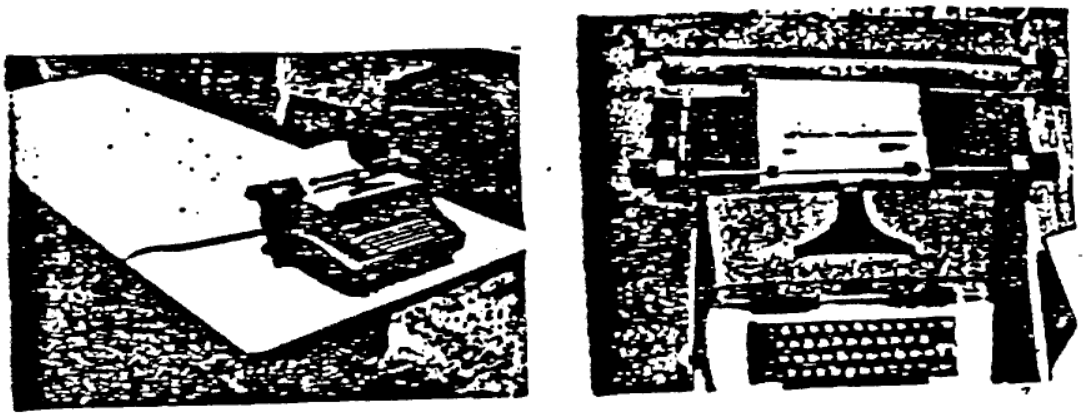

TYPEWRITER TARGET

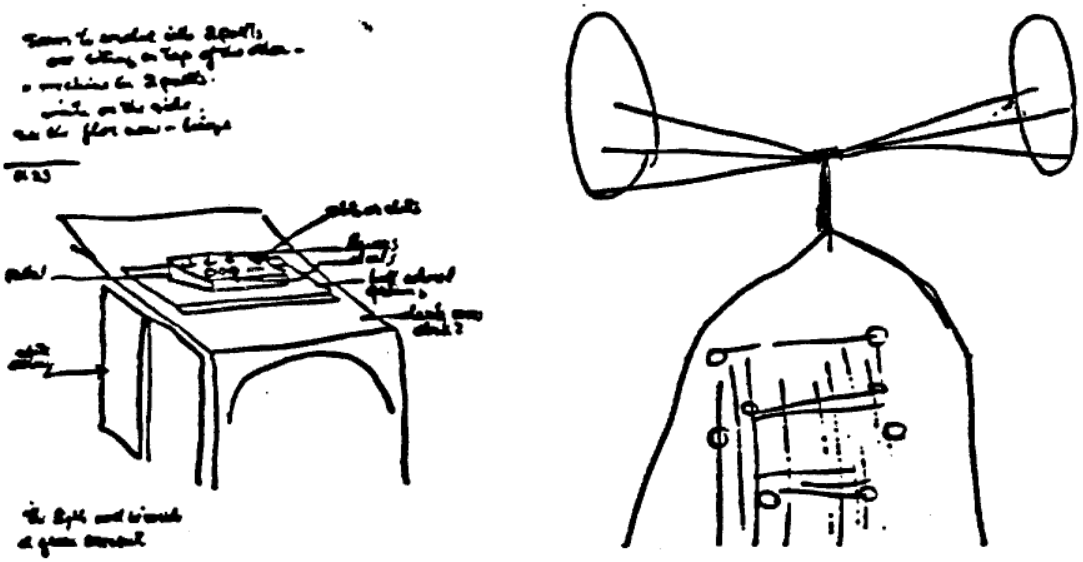

Figure 7: Drawings of a typewriter target by two subjects.

Source: Puthoff and Targ, "A Perceptual Channel for Information Transfer Over Kilometer Distances: Historical Perspective and Recent Research," Proceedings of the IEEE, 64, no. 3, March 1976.

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TARGET: VIDEO MONITOR FOR TEXT EDITING

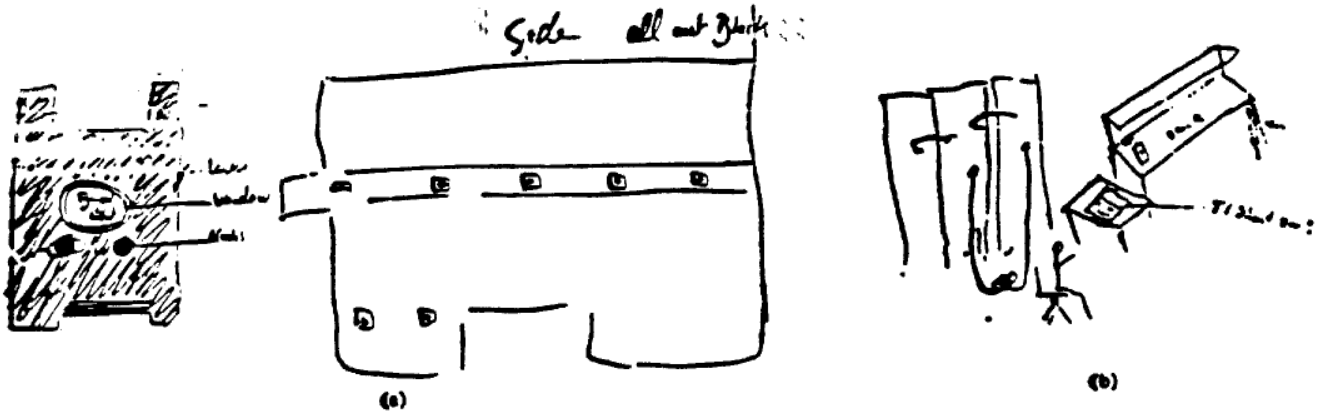

Figure 8: Drawing of two subjects of a video monitor target. (a) is a subject drawing of a "box with light coming out of it...painted flat black and in the middle of the room." In (b) the subject saw a computer terminal with relay racks in the background.

Source: Puthoff and Targ, "A Perceptual Channel for Information Transfer Over Kilometer Distances: Historical Perspective and Recent Research," Proceedings of the IEEE, 64, no. 3, March 1976.

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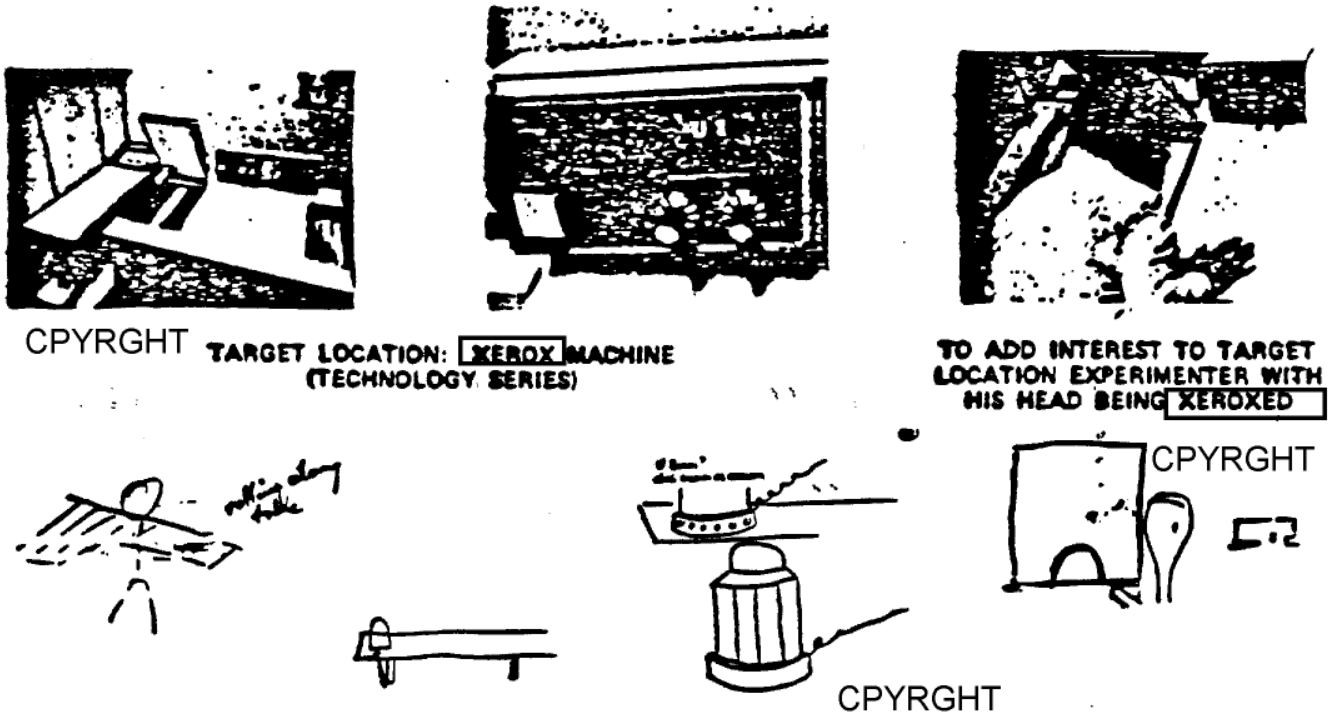

Figure 9: Drawings by three subjects for Xerox machine target. When asked to describe the square on the left, subject said, "there was this predominant light source which might have been a window, and a working surface or desk." In response to the square on the right the subject said, "I have a feeling that there is something silhouetted against the window."

Source: Puthoff and Targ, "A Perceptual Channel for Information Transfer Over Kilometer Distances: Historical Perspective and Recent Research," Proceedings of the IEEE, 64, no. 3, March 1976.

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> (U) ...the creation of an effectively structured "Psychic Service Corps" (PSC) be implemented in the United States--with its own dedicated recruiting arm and training command that should remain independent branches of the PSC for at least a generation--before being integrated with parallel armed force functions. This special treatment is necessary because of the unusual and unconventional roles that will be played by the PSC personnel in strategic defense, tactical maneuvers, battlefield operations, and espionage and counterespionage.[75]

25X1A

(S) [redacted] in a thesis he prepared for the Defense Intelligence School in 1979, summarized probable uses for remote viewing in military intelligence. He claimed that remote viewing has been proven sufficiently effective through experiment and could be used in the following applications:

> (S) - Surveying of remote geographical locations, facilities, and installations to identify unknown or suspected activities or functions.
>
> (S) - Locating and/or surveying individuals
>
> (S) - Locating sensitive areas within facilities such as code rooms in embassies.
>
> (S) - Reading written material sealed within envelopes or otherwise secured; or at least obtaining an impression of the general content of the material.
>
> (S) - Intercepting remote conversations.
>
> (S) - Detecting remote viewing activities directed against US targets by hostile powers (counterintelligence).[76]

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25X1A (U) [redacted] echoed the sentiments of Charles Wallach in that he, too, concluded that research into remote viewing does not require inordinate amounts of money or personnel. The simple experiments outlined earlier in this chapter illustrate this shared claim.

(U) The roller coaster of attitudes for support for parapsychology exemplified by Ronald McRea, previously cited authority of a study of US governmental research on psychic phenomena, clearly shows that there are no fence-sitters on this issue. He depicted the spectrum of differing opinions in Congress by describing Thomas McNamara, a former influential aide to Tennessee Congressman Robin Beard, who claimed that "This kind of research makes the whole defense establishment look ridiculous."[77] On the other hand, Dick Giza, a member of the House Intelligence Committee staff countered, "Considering some of the half-assed things this government has funded in the past, like studies of ethnicity in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this is not a bad area to throw money into."[78] G. Gordon Liddy, who used to study the exploitation of unconventional intelligence methods and devices, supported McNamara's sentiments and claimed that research in this area only threatened the taxpayers. "I think that stuff ought to be left to Stephen King," he quipped in 1981.[79]

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Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

(U) Representative Charlie Rose, a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, probably the most versed in remote viewing called the concept "really something." Rose attended classified CIA-arranged briefings on remote viewing and witnessed some incredible demonstrations, however, he thinks skeptics in the Pentagon and CIA hindered research, and he questioned their motives:

> (U) Some of the intelligence people I've talked to know that remote viewing works. They block further research on it, however, because they claim that it's not yet accurate as satellite photography. But it seems to me that it would be a hell of a cheap radar system, and if the Russians have it and we don't we are in serious trouble. This country wasn't afraid to look into the strange physics behind lasers and semiconductors, and I don't think that we should be afraid to look into this.[80]

(U) It is becoming increasingly apparent, as we trace attitudes in both executive and legislative branches of government in this paper, that the biggest obstacle in the path to further exploration of remote viewing is the large number of professionals who appeared to focus only on the inconsistencies inherent in this type of phenomenon instead of crediting its many successes. If remote viewing was employed in an interdisciplinary role in support of human intelligence, the possibility of increasing the reliability rate of these

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agents' reports, which are always in question, could be greatly enhanced.

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61. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsycholgy in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions." Studies in Intelligence. TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no. 4, Winter, 1977, 8.

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63. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsychology in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions." Studies in Intelligence. TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no.4, Winter 1977, 12.

64. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsychology in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions." Studies in Intelligence. TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no.4, Winter 1977, 12.

65. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsychology in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions." Studies in Intelligence. TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no.4, Winter 1977, 12.

66. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsychology in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions." Studies in Intelligence. TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no.4, Winter 1977, 14.

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72. William J. Broad, "Pentagon is said to Focus on ESP for Wartime Use," The New York Times, 10 January 1984, sec. C, 1.

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79. Ronald M. McRea. Mind Wars: The True Story of Government Research into the Military Potential of Psychic Weapons. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984), 64.

80. Ronald M. McRea, "Psychic Warriors," Omni, April 1984, 62. Congressman Rose accepted my invitation to interview him in early October 1992, however he was called out of town and the interview had to be canceled.

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW COULD HURT US !

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

(U) In 1976 my mother visited a psychic with some of her friends. Although reluctant at first because of her disbelief in this type of phenomenon, as well as her feeling that it would be a waste of time and money, she was finally convinced by her friends to go. The psychic told my mother that one of her two sons "would be laid-up for a while because of an accident." He also told her that both of her sons would "be professionals and wear military uniforms," In 1976, at 14 years of age, a career choice was the farthest thing from my mind, let alone a career as a military officer. Nevertheless, in 1977 I was involved in an auto accident that killed one of

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

my closest friends and seriously injured three other occupants in the car. I shattered my lower back and broke my left leg into two separate pieces. I was "laid-up" in traction for four months, and my leg required a ten-inch metal plate and 13 screws to put it back together. I wore a cast for approximately three years.

(U) Concerning the second prediction, my brother is also an army captain in military intelligence. My mother did not inform me about her visit to the psychic until well after the auto accident, and not until a few years ago, after my interest in joining the service, did she inform me about the psychic's latter prediction. To this day my mother, a former skeptic, refuses to ever return to a psychic for fear of more bad news.

(U) While researching this topic, through the help of two Defense Intelligence College faculty members, I met a man and a woman who reportedly possess psychic abilities. The woman, who claimed to have the capacity to "contact" me through mental ability, was unsuccessful in her attempt. However, the man, who makes his living as a psychic, rattled off approximately 10 remarkable facts about me after looking at my hands for roughly 15 seconds. It is extraordinarily

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

unlikely that this man could have known these personal issues about me without talking to some of the people closest to me who have known me since childhood. He even made me wonder whether I had shared any of these matters with anyone.

INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES ?

(S/NF) Although skeptics largely outnumber supporters of this research frontier, several impressive results of remote viewing experiments have been made available to the academic world with enough force to encourage a further look. Despite the fact that this phenomenon appears to run contrary to known properties of physical law as currently understood, the need for further research is supported by Dr. Kenneth Kress, CIA project officer during the Stanford Research Institute tests:

> (S/NF) It is my opinion that, as it relates to intelligence, sufficient understanding and assessment of parapsychology has not been achieved. There are observations that defy explanation. Coincidence is not likely, and fraud has not been discovered. The implication of these data cannot be determined until an assessment is done.[81]

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

(U) Unfortunately, but scarcely surprising, my investigation of remote viewing shows that support for something this controversial, which flies offensively in the face of traditional science, appears to hinge heavily on experimental success in excess of what would probably be considered acceptable for further experimentation into an established science. Ironically, experiments conducted have repeatedly yielded findings which should not be so extraordinarily difficult to accept. Perhaps Herbert Spencer said it best:

> (U) There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance -- that principle is contempt before investigation.[82]

(U) Unless all of these discoveries and observations for and against this phenomenon can be dismissed as sheer nonsense, remote viewing has certainly sufficiently generated the interest of many professional doctors and scientists to warrant further exploration.

(U) Ray Hyman quotes a statement that philosopher Antony Flew penned in 1975 concerning research on remote viewing:

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

> (U) It seemed to me that the situation in this misbegotten area could be summed up by saying that there was too much evidence for one just to dismiss it as all a lot of nonsense, and enough to require that one should maintain a continuing interest in the field, even if a distant interest.[83]

(U) The Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency, the latter of which continues to mandate this type of research, have allotted considerable man-hours and money with the obvious intent of acquiring a clearer perspective of remote viewing. This should propel the phenomenon's potential past mere speculation, not only for its value to the intelligence community as a collection resource, but also because of its danger as a possible threat against which we should be prepared to defend. In time, as the mystery of this controversy unfolds, what today is overwhelmingly regarded as science fiction, might very well turn out to be science fact.

(U) As noted by Captain Groller:

> (U) It is sobering to remember the Manhattan Project, undertaken in fear of parallel Nazi efforts, was based on an unproven hypothesis in a highly theoretical branch of science. Nevertheless, two days before Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt committed vast and scarce

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

> resources to support the work of scientists who had no firm data in hand, to seek the exotic goal of loosing the electrical bonds of matter. As a result, what was literally science fiction until 1944 became a brutal truth in 1945.[84]

(U) With the demise of the U.S.S.R., the threat of massive nuclear conflict with the Commonwealth of Independent States is greatly diminished. Therefore, the possibility of the Russians applying the phenomenon of parapsychology or remote viewing in a military capacity may be seen by some as unlikely. Nevertheless, I contend that the Intelligence Community should continue systematic investigation of a potentially enormously productive type of research with profoundly important military applications.

(U) The break-up of the Soviet Union posits new concerns in the possibility of proliferation or sale of parts of its nuclear arsenal to third world nations. In this regard, the US devoted a great deal of energy studying fixes to the proliferation issue of ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons after the cold war. The unconventional weapon of remote viewing, if shared with unpredictable third world nations, could likewise be a profoundly important equalizer, much as

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

missiles and nuclear weapons used to be. Therefore, it stands to reason that some serious research would be prudent.

(U) Martin Ebon writes that the potential of psychic warfare warrants respect:

> (U) In the arsenal of any cold or hot war on this globe, psychic capabilities do not have top priority on either ideological side of the fence, but we have no reason to doubt that some of their potentials are awesome. Psychic warfare is something to fear.[85]

(U) Intelligence analysis, quite often based on qualitative assumptions, would assume a totally new dimension should the theory of mind warfare develop to the point of acceptance.

(S/NF) Kress feels that biggest obstacles to overcome concerning paranormal research are those of understanding this phenomena, and the conveying of this knowledge to policymakers so that they can support research efforts:

> (S/NF) The people managing such agencies demand quick and relevant results. The intelligence and military agencies, therefore, press for results before there is sufficient experimental reproducibility or understanding of the physical mechanisms. Unless there is a major breakthrough in understanding, the situation is not likely to

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

> change as long as applications-oriented agencies are funding parapsychology. Agencies must commit long-term basic research funds and learn to confine attention to testing only abilities which at least appear reproducible enough to be used to augment other hard collection techniques. Remote viewing can then rise and fall on its merits and not stumble over bureaucratic charters and conjectures proposed by people who are irrevocably on one side or the other in this controversial area.[86]

(U) If there is any validity to the eye-opening results of the studies and experiments narrated in this examination of remote viewing, and, if these results can be accepted at face value, the possible application of this phenomenon to intelligence gathering becomes increasingly obvious.

(U) A recurring theme used by opponents of remote viewing encountered throughout this research is that remote viewing experiments are plagued by inaccuracies and inconsistencies. Intelligence analysis itself is an inexact science, however, one which continues to gamble with reliability factors. Additionally, if 100 percent accuracy is a prerequisite for employing an intelligence discipline, then all of the disciplines employed today are only marginally acceptable as well.

25X1A (U) [redacted] a certified forensic hypnotist and member of the Foreign Counterintelligence Department at

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

the Defense Intelligence Agency does not rule out that remote viewing might some day be accepted as a tool to aid in intelligence collection:

> (U) The skepticism associated with remote viewing is not much unlike the skepticism shown toward the use of forensic hypnosis. Up until approximately a decade ago law enforcement personnel, as well as investigators, were hesitant to even consider the use of forensic hypnosis in attempting to help victims or witnesses regress in time to recall certain events. Over time, it was proven that persons placed under hypnosis by competent personnel, were able to regress in time and accurately relive a situation or event as it occurred, and then be brought back to the present and provide accurate, detailed descriptions of all that had transpired. Supporting investigations, in almost all cases, proved the accuracy of the interviewee's statements.[87]

(U) Perhaps remote viewing's greatest potential today is as an adjunct to current sources of intelligence. Minimally, remote viewing could be employed as a complimentary piece to many intelligence puzzles; combined as a force multiplier with Imagery, or used in conjunction with the first hand reports of agents.

(U) When questioned about the concept of remote viewing playing a complimentary role under the current intelligence

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

SG1J collection umbrella, [redacted] Chief of the Special Projects Office at the Defense Intelligence Agency replied:

> (U) Remote viewing does have promise as a collection tool. Under the right conditions, it could help substantially. It offers unique potential, especially where most conventional sensors can not collect; in the inside of buildings, or assisting in locating missing individuals where there is no advance information, for example. Remote viewing can provide clues to narrow down the search. It still needs work, but what sensor system does not? It is not at the point of application where it should be employed in a stand-alone capacity, it cannot be used in every type of application, and it is not high-precision with high repeatability results, but it can certainly enhance the data of other collectors.[88]

(U) Maybe we should be more flexible and take into account the many successes uncovered through remote viewing experimentation, even while remaining aware of the built-in peculiarities and handicaps associated with it. Maybe the concept of pulling futuristic answers from glistening crystal balls or talking mirrors is no longer limited to fairy tales like the Wizard of Oz, and Snow White. Maybe the time has come to place at least partial reliance on a person of empirically documented psychic ability.

(U) This paper has presented documented experimental findings which illustrate that the potential of

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

remote viewing, if used in conjunction with the other intelligence disciplines, could prove an invaluable asset to the intelligence community. Even anecdotal material is so voluminous that its impact cannot be denied. Data gathered suggest that this phenomenon deserves to be examined more carefully for its potential applications to strategic and tactical intelligence.

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

Approved For Release 2001/04/02 : CIA-RDP96-00789R002600250001-6

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81. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsychology in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions," Studies in Intelligence, TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no.4, Winter 1977, 17.

25X1A 82. Cited by [redacted] member of the Foreign Counterintelligence faculty, Department of National Intelligence Studies at the Defense Intelligence College. Interview conducted by the author at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC., 27 October 1992.

83. Ray Hyman, "Psychics and Scientists: Mind Reach and Remote Viewing," The Humanist, 37, no.3, May/June 1977, 17.

84. Richard Groller, Captain, USA, "Soviet Psychotronics - A State of Mind," Military Intelligence Magazine, October-December 1986, 21.

85. Martin Ebon, Psychic Warfare: Threat or Illusion (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1983), 219.

86. (SECRET/NOFORN) The Central Intelligence Agency. "Parapsychology in Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions," Studies in Intelligence, TR-SINT 77-004, 21, no. 4, Winter 1977, 17.

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